

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, EG, IS
SUBJ: SADAT'S CONCERN ABOUT NEW ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN
SINAI/GAZA

1. FOLLOWING FAHMY'S BRIEFING FOR CODEL HAMILTON TWO EVEN-
INGS AGO, HE INDICATED THAT HE HAD AN URGENT MATTER TO
DISCUSS WITH ME PRIVATELY. HE THEN HANDED ME FOLLOWING
MEMORANDUM:

2. QUOTE: NEW ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN RAFAH. THE JERUSALEM
POST, IN ITS ISSUE OF JUNE 29TH STATED THAT NEW ISRAELI
SETTLEMENTS WERE ADDED TO THE ALREADY EXISTING SETTLEMENTS
IN RAFAH. THE POST WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE HEAD OF NAHAL
HAROFIT SETTLEMENT SAID THAT HE EXPECTS TO HAVE HIS NEWLY
BUILDING LIVING QUARTERS OCCUPIED BY AUG. THE NEW SETTLEMENT
IS SITUATIONED THEN KMS EAST OF EL ARISH AND WAS
DESCRIBED BY ITS HEAD AS POSSIBLY BEING THE FUTURE LIMIT OF
ISRAEL'S BORDER WITH EGYPT. UNQ TUOE.

3. FAHMY SAID HE WAS BRINGING THE MATTER TO OUR ATTENTION
ON SADAT'S SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS. THE PRESIDENT WANTED
PRES CARTER TO KNOW ABOUT THIS MOST RECENT INDICATION OF WHAT
HE CALLED "ISRAELI EXPANSIONIST INTENTIONS". FAHMY SAID WE
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SHOULD BE AWARE HOW DEEPLY SADAT FEELS ABOUT THESE SETTLEMENTS.
SHOULD THEY BE EXPANDED, AS IS SUGGESTED IN THE LATEST
JERUSALEM POST ARTICLE, IT WILL SIMPLY ADD NEW OBSTACLES TO
THE ALREADY DIFFICULT ME PEACE PROCESS. SADAT WAS SURE
THAT PRES CARTER HAS NOTED THAT HE HAS MADE VERY FEW PUBLIC
STATEMENTS IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS. HE HAS REFRAINED FROM DOING
SO PRIMARILY TO HELP MAKE THE ATMOSPHERE CONDUCIVE TO SUCC-

ESSFUL TALKSWITH BEGIN. IF, HOWEVER, THE ISRAELIS GO ON WITH THEIR SETTLEMENTS POLICY IN EGYPTIAN TERRITORY, AND BLAT-ANTLY ANNOUNCE SUCH SETTLEMENTS, HE WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO RESPOND. SILENCE IN MATTER OF THIS SORT IS TAKEN BY THE ISRAELIS TO MEAN ACQUIESCENCE. HE HOPED THAT PRES CARTER WILL MAKE CLEAR TO PRIMIN BEGIN THAT ISREALI SETTLEMENTS POLICY, IF NOT CURBED, IS A MAJOR IMPEDIMENT TO PEACE.

4. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, FAHMY THEN GRUMBLED THAT WE SURELY KNOW ABOUT SUCH NEW SETTLEMENTS AND SAY NOTHING ABOUT THEM. I TOLD HIM THAT, AS HE WELL KNEW, ISRAEL IS UNDER NO DOUBT ABOUT OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD ITS SETTLEMENTS POLICY. OUR POSITION ON THE SUBJECT HAS PREADTLY BEEN MADE CLEAR, BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY. FAHMY ARGUED THAT THIS LATEST ISRAELI ANNOUNCEMENT WARRANTS ANOTHER RESTATEMENT OF OUR POSITION.

5. COMMENT: FROM HIS REMARKS, IT IS CLEAR THAT FAHMY IS CHAFING TO ISSUE SOME STRONG STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE LATEST ANNOUNCEMENT OF ADDITIONAL ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN THE RAFAH AREA. FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST HE IS BEING HELD BACK BY SADAT. ANNOUNCEMENT OF ANY NEW ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IS LIKE WAIVING A RED FLAG BEFORE GOE, AND ESPECIALLY FAHMY. LIKE AN ANGRY BULL, HE IS INVARIABLY TEMPTED TO CHARGE IN THE FORM OF SOME STRONG PUBLIC ATTACK ON ISRAEL. IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF WE COULD SAY TO SADAT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAS TAKEN NOTE OF SADAT'S MESSAGE WILL TAKE UP THE SUBJECT WITH PRIMIN

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BEGIN.
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Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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